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COCOM Document No. 3995;
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Co-ordinating CommitteeA Further Memorandum by the United Kingdom Delegation
on their Proposal to Export Infra-red Detector Cells
to Poland.

COCOM DOCS. Nos. 3765, 3803, 3852

The United Kingdom Delegation wish to return to the proposal made in COCOM Doc. 3765 (November 16, 1959), which was opposed by the United States Delegation on the grounds that eventually all uses of the equipment are of military benefit (COCOM Doc. 3852 of January 18, 1960):

2. The United Kingdom authorities have made further enquiries about this particular type of cell and have again considered whether either the cells themselves, or the programmes of research on which they are used, have any significant military application. Their enquiries do not suggest that this is so. The P.C. 21 cell is a commercial type which is freely available in the West and full information about its characteristics and performance has been published. They have no evidence of serious military interest. On the contrary, its use appears to be confined to general research and to applications to industrial spectroscopy, temperature measurement and flame control. It is also considered that even if these cells were diverted to military use, the quantity involved is negligible from the strategic standpoint.

3. The risk of revealing technological know-how has also been re-considered. Expert opinion is that it is not possible to reproduce these cells merely by examination of a sample. The heart of the cell is the Indium Antimonide crystal, the production of which depends on know-how which cannot be deduced from analysis.

4. The United Kingdom authorities hope that the Committee will re-consider their proposal in the light of this additional information and they would be grateful for the further views of Member Governments by May 30.

United Kingdom Delegation,
Paris.

May 11. 1960.

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